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Up to August 23, 1969

3,320 US PLANES DOWNED
IN NORTH VIET NAM

At the invitation of the Fatherland Front, a delegation of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces is now visiting North Viet Nam. Led by its President, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, concurrently Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, it receives a warm and affectionate welcome.

Photo: The delegation arrives in Hanoi:

Lawyer **TRINH DINH THAO** (right), accompanied by **HOANG QUOC VIET**, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Federation of Trade Unions, waves acknowledgement to greetings of Hanoians.



South Viet Nam

PLAF NEW DEVASTATING STRIKES

Saigon Front

In Six Days Ending August 17

- 6,000 Enemy Troops (3,500 GIs), 530 Vehicles (450 Tanks and Armoured Cars) and 70 Heavy Guns and Mortars Put out of Action; 90 Aircraft Downed or Wrecked in Binh Long and Tay Ninh Sectors.
- 1,350 Adverse Soldiers Knocked Out in My Tho Province.

Da Nang Front

In Two Days (August 12 and 13)

- About One Thousand Enemy Casualties (760 GIs).
- Phu Bai US Base (near Hue) Stormed on the Night of August 10: a US Company Wiped Out With Heavy Material Losses.
- 600 Soldiers Put out of Action, 4 Aircraft Grounded in Quang Ngai Sector.

South of DMZ

- 900 GIs Disabled, 42 Vehicles Wrecked, 12 Aircraft Downed in the First Half of August.

"De-Americanisation" of the War

Leaning on a Reed

THE US misadventure in Viet Nam is tragic and no more doubt about its bankruptcy is entertained by world and American public opinion. The withdrawal of the expeditionary corps has become an unpleasant necessity forced on Washington by the Vietnamese on the one hand and by the Americans on the other.

Not resigning himself to giving up the imperialist objectives pursued thus far, the perfidious "hawk" Nixon thinks he has found a magic formula for a victory at cheaper price in "de-Americanisation" or "Vietnamization" of the war. It consists in beefing up the puppet army by drafting as many youths as possible, thrusting into their hands a quantity of weapons and equipment as modern as US military security can allow, training them in the use of this armory in the shortest delay possible, and then matching them against their compatriots in the name of the latter's freedom and self-determination.

It is a miracle of simplicity. However, this puppet army ought to stand its ground in face of an adversary that has, within a quarter of a century, defeated the Japanese, the French armies, and successfully confronted the American—the three most reputed imperialist armies.

AN ARMY THAT HAS KNOWN BUT REVERSES AND HUMILIATIONS

BORN in the wagons of the French expeditionary corps during the "dirty" 1945-1954 Indochina war, the puppet army is handicapped irremediably by quite an inglorious past. Its first nuclei consisted of units of auxiliary troops recruited from among the rif-raff in occupied areas and armed by the French colonialists. Nguyen Van Thieu, the present puppet "President" and "Colonel", is one of these veterans because in 1946 he wore

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US OBDRACY, CAUSE OF PARIS CONFERENCE'S DEADLOCK

THE seven fruitless months of the Paris Conference and the words and deeds of the US government in that period are evidence enough of the stubborn position of the US, especially concerning two fundamental questions: the withdrawal of the US troops and the recognition of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. In these two issues, the basic difference between US colonialist stance and the correct, fair and logical position of the Vietnamese people is only too clear.

As regards the first question, the US still insists on mutual troop withdrawal, an utterly absurd claim intended to justify the dispatch of US troops across half of the globe to invade Viet Nam and put on a par the US, the aggressor, and the Vietnamese people, victims of US aggression. It also denies the sacred right of self-defence of the Vietnamese people who are fighting on their own soil. In fact, it aims at prolonging the occupation of South Viet Nam by the US expeditionary troops to stem the people's patriotic struggle and prop up the puppets.

As unmistakably pointed out in the ten-point overall solution of the NLF, since the US has illegally committed troops to an aggression against South Viet Nam, it must withdraw all US and satellite troops from there without any condition whatsoever. This matter must be settled between Viet Nam and the US. As an international issue, it cannot be confused with another question which must be solved among the Vietnamese people themselves, that is the one concerning the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam. The position of the Vietnamese people concerning this is a principled, clear-cut and logical one.

As for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, the US also suggested "general elections" and even declared readiness to accept whatever result the "elections" might yield. But the important point here is who will organize and control the elections. In the US opinion, "elections" will be organized and controlled by the Saigon puppet administration at the gunpoints of the US expeditionary troops. The US

scheme is thus transparent: the so-called "free and democratic general elections" in which the US calls on the South Vietnamese people to take part after laying down arms would in no way differ from the previous "elections" forces that brought Ngo Dinh Diem and Nguyen Van Thieu to the puppet presidency.

The NFL ten-point overall solution is unequivocal in this respect: to guarantee the real right of self-determination to the South Vietnamese people and to ensure really free and democratic general elections, a provisional coalition government must be set up, embracing the political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality; this government will organize free and democratic general elections, work out a constitution and pave the way for the formation of a full-fledged coalition government. Such general elections can be held only when the US and satellite troops have already been completely pulled out of South Viet Nam. This obviously is a fair and reasonable position, consistent with the real reality and the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and right to self-determination.

A comparison between the reasonableness of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and the NFL and the stubbornness of the US on the problem of US troop withdrawal, on the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and other problems leads to this conclusion: the US still refuses to give up its colonialist policy, to recognize the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and still holds fast to the puppet administration in the hope of dragging on its occupation of South Viet Nam, repressing the South Vietnamese people and prolonging the partition of Viet Nam. It is therefore clear that the US has not "gone as far as it can," in the search for peace, contrarily to what Nixon has claimed. Instead, the US has gone to great lengths of obduracy and perfidy to implement its neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam.

On the other hand, US policy is vividly illustrated by the intensification of US military activities in South Viet Nam. In fact, the US, satellite and puppet troops frequently conduct "sweep" operations against the people, committing barbaric crimes, US B-52s daily drop thousands of tons of bombs devastating villages and crop fields. The US continues using in South Viet Nam lethal weapons and war means such as napalm, phosphorus and seven-ton bombs, toxic gas and chemicals. US aircraft daily carry out reconnaissance flights over the DRVN territory and bombard many places. To put into effect the so-called "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war, the US is feverishly strengthening and equipping the puppet army on the US payroll.

The atrocious war crimes committed by the US aggressors have been condemned by the progressive mankind. Yet, Nixon has had the cheek to say that the years of US aggression in Viet Nam were "the finest hours of the United States."

These cynical words once again prove that, despite its ever heavier setbacks and predicament, the US still refuses to give up its aggressive design and neo-colonialist policy against South Viet Nam.

This reactionary and obdurate stand of the US is the cause of the Paris Conference's deadlock. At the Conference's 30th session last August 14, Minister Xuan Thuy stressed: "The US must bear full responsibility for the lack of progress of the Paris Conference, for the continued prolongation of the war in Viet Nam, for American youths being sent to useless death, and for the disastrous effects of US authorities' policy of war and aggression in Viet Nam."

Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation, on August 7 denounced the US for foot-dragging the Paris Conference and pointed out, "The US has not 'gone far enough' in opening the door to peace," but on the contrary the US "withdrew of 25,000 GIs" and "free elections" play had hoodwinked nobody. When the delegates of the US and Saigon puppet administrations affirmed that they had "gone as far as they can" and would not make any step further, one wonders

whether they mean that the US and puppet clique will go on deliberately stalemating the Paris Conference! Once again, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh unmasked the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate, a gang of vile traitors to the country, of fire-eating dictators rotten to the core, who persecute all those who dare stand for peace, independence and neutrality. They are at one another's throat in a scramble for selfish interests and positions. It is that administration despised by the South Vietnamese that the US has been doing its best

to support. The two delegates pointed out that in the North, US planes had continued their reconnaissance missions and bombing against many localities between the 17th and 19th parallels. American

31st Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Aug. 21, 1969)

Vietnamese People's Representatives Bare Washington's Bellicosity

guns based on US warships and south of the DMZ had been carrying on poundings of the southern coastal areas of the DRVN. On August 6, 1969, US planes bombed two villages in Quang Binh province, inflicting many civilian casualties.

In South Viet Nam, the US military command admitted that B-52s had recently flown the fiercest bombing sorties in the Viet Nam war. They dropped for instance nearly one thousand tons of bombs on the night of August 13, and 1,500 tons on the night of August 16 in the area bordering on Cambodia. Besides, the US intensified chemical warfare. Since 1964, US troops have sprayed up to 7,000 tons of toxic chemicals in South Viet Nam, a quantity enough to cover the whole of its territory. In July 1969, the US dispatched to the South a number of troops equivalent to a division, while American generals clamoured to maintain "maximum military pressure" there.

DRVN and PRG representatives commented that the US "withdrawal of 25,000 GIs" and "free elections" play had hoodwinked nobody. When the delegates of the US and Saigon puppet administrations affirmed that they had "gone as far as they can" and would not make any step further, one wonders

to prettify with "legal and constitutional" face and to shore up at the cost of many young American lives. There is no clearer indication that the Washington rulers are flouting public opinion as well as the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people.

In bringing out in relief once again the soundness of the 10-point solution put forth by the NFL and PRG of the RSVN, the Vietnamese people's representatives underlined the will for peace of the DRVN government and PRG. "We have carefully examined the proposals of the delegates of the US and Saigon administrations," said Mr Ha Van Tan. "We have many a time analysed and criticised their negative character." If we dismiss it, it is because it aims only at implementing US aggressive and neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam, perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam, trampling underfoot the fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people and denying the right to self-determination.

As has been recalled many times, we are ready to negotiate with the parties concerned a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue on the basis of the NFL 10 points. If the Viet Nam war drags on, if the Paris Conference marks time, it must be entirely blamed on the US and Saigon administrations.

THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

All-Viet Nam Militant Solidarity, an Invincible Force

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by HOANG QUOC VIET, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party CC, member of the Presidium of the Fatherland Front CC and President of the Federation of Trade Unions, at the rally in honour of the VNANDPF Delegation)

THE US aggressors and their lackeys, traitors to the country, want to turn the South Viet Nam towns and cities into safe strongholds and hideouts. But the flames of struggle in the South Viet Nam urban centres have never ceased spreading. The widespread offensives and uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people early last year have carried the patriotic war into the towns. In coordination with the people's liberation armed forces, the patriotic and revolutionary forces in the towns all to a man stood up, and attacked the enemy in his very lairs. Intellectuals, students, pupils, industrialists, traders, workers, functionaries, and even many officers and soldiers of the puppet army, of different political tendencies, and religious creeds have taken part in increasing numbers in the patriotic movement and have organized themselves, together with the people at large, to fight the US aggressors and their flackys, for national salvation.

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces came into being amidst such effervescence.

The event was of tremendous political importance in the new stage of the South Viet Nam revolution. It spelled out the vigorous development of the patriotic movement of the South Vietnamese

urban people. The Alliance's birth and activities further aggravated the isolation of the US imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Huong traitor clique, and portend their inevitable failure.

The National Salvation Manifesto and Political Program of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has clearly expounded its goal which is: to rally all patriotic forces and individuals to fight resolutely against foreign aggression, completely overthrow the Thieu-Ky puppet regime, set up a national coalition government, achieve independence, democracy and peace.

This sound position of the Alliance is consistent with the Political Program of the South Viet Nam NFL, and the pressing demands and common interests of the South Vietnamese people. This has therefore won the strong approval from broad strata of the people in the urban centres still controlled by the enemy, and the sympathy and support of the people in South Viet Nam and the rest of the country.

Mutual support and co-ordinated actions between the NFL and the VNANDPF have created new possibilities for the broadening and consolidation of the national united front against the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong gang of traitors.

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We Will Do Our Best To Mobilize South Viet Nam Townspeople To Step Up Their Struggle Against US Aggression

(Excerpts from the speech delivered by LUYER TRINH DINH THAO, Head of the VNANDPF Delegation)

THE tremendous successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, especially the splendid achievements in the stage of widespread offensives and uprisings can be ascribed to the ardent patriotism, the deep hatred for the US aggressors and their henchmen, the spirit of self-sacrifice for the Fatherland, and the valiant fighting of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people under the leadership of the South Viet Nam NFL, the organizer and leader of the victorious resistance of the South Vietnamese people. They are also due to national solidarity and the unity of mind and might of all patriots.

We are very glad and moved at the great accomplishments recorded by our North Vietnamese kith and kin in national construction and in building a new life in the North, braving countless sacrifices and trials during the war. They have brought added glory to our nation, and stimulated the South Vietnamese people including various strata of the urban population in their fight against the US aggressors, for national salvation.

We wish to voice our admiration to the North Vietnamese intellectuals for their dedicated efforts to

build a modern science and advanced culture for the nation, contributing actively to national salvation and construction.

The South Vietnamese people, especially the people in the towns and cities, and in the areas still controlled by the enemy, greatly admire the North Vietnamese people's downing of more than 1,300 US aircraft, exploding of the US Air Force's "superiority" myth, defeating of the US air and naval war of destruction.

The US aggressors have been adventurous enough to wage a local war in South Viet Nam and a war of destruction on the North of our country. But kindred relations of the 31 million Vietnamese in the two zones is an invincible force, a magic wand helping our people to inflict defeat after defeat upon the US aggressors.

The big successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have driven the US aggressors and their henchmen into a position of passiveness, weakness and utter isolation. The failure of the US imperialist is all too clear to everybody, but for more than a year now they have remained obdurate and

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At the welcome rally: The crowd enthusiastically welcomes combatants from the great Southern front.

LEAKING A REED

(Continued from page 1)

the stripes of a sergeant. The same is true with virtually all other senior officers including Nguyen Cao Ky, Nguyen Van Vy, Cao Van Vien, respectively Vice-President, Defence Minister and General Chief of Staff, etc.

During the different offensives of the Viet Nam People's Army, especially in the period of Dien Bien Phu, these outfits became "national (puppet) army" of the Bao Dai regime, virtually disintegrated. Of their remnants regrouped in the South after Geneva (1954) and patched up thanks to US dollars, weapons and "advisers", dictator Ngo Dinh Diem made a "republican army", whose primary task it was to "fill up" Ben Hai river which serves as the demarcation line between the two zones, North and South Viet Nam. However, faced with the upsurge of the revolutionary movement in the South, this army had to wheel towards internal repression.

In 1959-1960, even with its 300,000 men under arms, it was powerless in face of the "simultaneous popular uprisings", with the result that Washington had to start the "special war" in the years 1960-1965. Despite its 500,000 men, a 20:1 troop ratio according to US estimates, its losses kept rising year after year:

- 1961: 49,400 killed, wounded and deserters;
- 1962: 85,000 killed, wounded and deserters;
- 1963: 118,000 killed, wounded and deserters;
- 1964: 135,400 killed, wounded and deserters.

The impotence of the puppet army became patent in the Ay Nui battle which took place on Jan. 2, 1963 in the open fields on the Mekong Delta. That day, 2,000 men of the puppet army under the direct command of US General Robert York, supported by armoured personnel carriers, gunboats, planes, helicopters, cannons and mortars, lost to a PLAF unit to times numerically inferior 500 soldiers, officers and "advisers" without being able to wipe out the enemy though beleaguered.

Towards the beginning of 1965, as American correspondents put it, the puppet army was like a boat in distress amidst an impetuous current, and that forced the Pentagon into a massive US troop build-up in South Viet Nam.

At first, the GI's replaced the puppet troops in guarding the battle and the rear to enable the latter to do the fighting, in which they soon proved mainly ineffectual, and then chose to commit his own forces to action beside the puppet troops. It took the Americans not much time to find out that this co-operation was fruitless and even dangerous for themselves: under the onslaught of the patriots, the puppet soldiers ran for their lives and often lethally exposed their "allies".

Next, it was a further step in the "Americanisation" of the war: the GI's now shouldered the combat load alone while the puppets were moved behind the line to take up specification tasks: the housewife's task as the Western press termed it. This modest job was still heavy for them, but US troops had to assume a major share.

Since the 1968 Tet offensives, the weaknesses of the puppet army have been even more accentuated and, at times, Abrams has had to deploy one-third of the strength of the US expeditionary corps to support his local "allies". Whereas in 1965 when the puppet army were in charge of all the operations on the battlefield its losses amounted to 40 battalions destroyed or decimated, these figures doubled to 79 battalions in 1968, while it enjoyed maximum US support.

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PUPPET UNITS

The puppet army has to infantry divisions disposed as shown on the map opposite. All have been badly battered by the PLAF. Take for instance the First Infantry Division, on which Lt. Johnson was a eulogistic citation and which the Pentagon took pleasure in praising as comparable to any US infantry division.

Activated in November 1955, it was one of the first-born puppet divisions, occupying South Viet Nam's two northernmost provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien. It played the assigned role of a spearhead in a "March on the North," so eagerly wished for but off since its inefficiency in the control of these two provinces compelled the US command to hurl US Marines into the jungle south of the 17th parallel in Summer 1966, thus upsetting the enemy battle array and strategic plans. This did not prevent the 1st Inf. Div. from suffering 2,000 casualties on the Highway No. 9 front as well as two battalions and about a dozen companies lost or depleted in cities and bases in the rear area.

Early in April 1967, in only a few days, two regimental CP's of this division were blotted out at La Vang and Ha Ha. 2,000 soldiers and officers killed or wounded and 230 vehicles destroyed. Next came the famous 1968 Tet offensives with Hue as one of the main targets. The 1st Inf. Div. was paralysed and whittled down right in the first attacks, and for more than three weeks, GI's and South Korean mercenaries were continuously rushed in to its rescue. All told, in 1968, it lost 3 battalions and 20 companies of infantry, an armoured regiment and 2 engineering battalions. And on Jan. 21, 1969, according to AFP, its commander, Gen. Ngo Quang Truong, declared that it would be a very long time before his division could dispense with the support of the American forces.

The plight of the 9 other divisions was no better.

The 7th Inf. Div. once regarded as a model unit in the organisational field and as Ngo Dinh Diem's favourite, was really a weathervane, having taken part in almost all the coups d'etat that had erupted since 1963. Propped up by the US 9th Inf. Div. which decided to bring home first, it had in 1968 however, 14 battalions written off the muster-roll and the housewife's task, according to AP (June 11, 1969) the US command in Saigon remained very reticent as to the capacity of the 7th Inf. Div. to fulfil its mission.

Let us mention also the case of the 22nd Inf. Div. renowned for its record number of rebellions; that of the 18th infantry known in the "Pentagon East" as the most skillful in dodging encounters with the VC and which showed a 50 percent increase in the desertion rate in May last; that of the 5th Infantry nicknamed "Division of Blood and Tears" for having suffered real bleeding (7 battalions struck off the charge in 1968 alone); that of the 25th Inf. (unit twinned with the US 25th Infantry Division nicknamed Tropic Lightning) whose commander in 1966 touched off a real upsurge by publicly unveiling the unbearable condescending behaviour of the US "advisers" to the division, a unit described by the US command as one of the worst divisions in the world, etc.

The puppet strategic reserves are made up of units of Paratroops, Marines and Rangers, regarded as crack ones.

The Paratroops, who put on the airs of bloodthirsty panther-men, are however mere rascals in front of the resolute and battle-tested advisers like the PLAF who have inflicted on them considerable casualties: 8 battalions and dozens of companies put out of action in 1968 in Hue (February), on Highway No. 9 and in Khe Sanh (April), in Saigon (May) and in the Tay Ninh sector (August-September). In the

first half of this year, 1968 companies were knocked out or thinned South-west of Tay Ninh.

The Marines, self-styled "Sea Tigers," have practically lost their fighting spirit in the Binh Gia disaster (end Dec. 1961-Jan. 1962) where 3,000 of them (out of 10,000) were killed in a 6-day battle. In 1968, they had 4 battalions put out of action in the Saigon-Gia Dinh sector and a 5th in the Tay Ninh sector. In the first half of this year, often enough they dodged clashes with the PLAF.

The Rangers, mobile forces of intervention in various tactical zones, lost to battalions in 1968, 3 of them each in the cities of Saigon, Da Lat and Can Tho. Last May, in Plei Can area (Ben Het), 3 other Ranger battalions were wiped out or decimated.

FIRST REMEDY, INTENSIVE INDUCTION: TO QUENCH ONE'S THIRST WITH POISON

NIXON and Co. are well aware of the great defects of this army and they intend to shift the heavy combat tasks of the

expeditionary corps in the "de-Americanisation," in essence "puppetisation." In different statements, they have contemplated remedies at massive dose, first of all an intensive military draft for a rapid increase of the strength.

According to US News and World Report of March 17, 1969, Nixon planned to pull out the US troops by replacing a GI by 2 puppet soldiers after crash training the latter. Thus it is necessary to promptly double the effectiveness of the puppet army, to over 1 million men. What a utopia, especially when the Americans and their valets' rifles still not run far beyond the limits of their bases and the cities in South Viet Nam.

In these areas, the troop levy has become a real scourge for the people and a source of constant anxiety for all families. The husband or the adolescent boy, at home, at the work site, at school or in the street, by day or by night, risks at any moment taken away from his family to be driven, often tied up, to a recruiting centre. Of course, the draft agents are not over-particular and children of 15 and even younger, grey-headed men, even sick and disabled persons are sent pressganged into the army.

While this troop beating-up triggers the hatred of the people against the US-puppets, it still fails to swell the ranks sensibly because battle losses and desertions cut big gaps in the Saigon army: close to 185,000 deserters in the first half of 1969. One year after the promulgation of the general mobilisation law, Saigon's official figures could claim only (AP, May 13, 1969) that the puppet army forces number 300,000 men, half of them in the "republican" regular number.

As disclosed by the Western press, these tactics rather destined to the estimation of the budget to be defrayed by the Americans are inflated compared with the records kept by the puppet Defence Ministry which, in its turn, relies on reports submitted by lower echelons. As malversation has become a common practice in such a rotten machine as the Saigon administration, there is understandably a far cry between the reality and the official statistics. Western correspondents have estimated that at each echelon of the hierarchy starting from the company, the figures have been swollen by at least 5% for this purpose!

The most barbarous methods resorted to by the US-puppets will certainly be able to some extent beef up the bastard and anti-national army. Nevertheless, this will only be more heterogeneous and its effectiveness quite poor already will feel the effects still more drastically. It is like quenching one's thirst with a poisoned drink.

British correspondents recently revealed that all the recruits are forced to enlist and that most of them have not yet come of draft age. It was reported that in Saigon, nearly 100,000 students and students of Buddhist schools had been inducted and that a paratroop battalion had had to accept in its ranks 145 prisoners. 80 of whom deserted the next day, etc.

A similar jumble prevails in the corps of officers in which the criterion of promotion is, according to the US press, bribes, political connections, cringing... and not the military talent. The coloured stripes can be bought in Saigon a few hundred thousand dollars which, however, are rapidly paid off once the grade is obtained. What more about the generals who are found in profusion in the occupied areas of South Viet Nam? The system of sacking of stores in Hue, Saigon and other cities by officers and men of the puppet army during the February and May 1968 PLAF offensives has been reported by

foreign press correspondents, as well as the activities of the two most lucrative "clandestine" organisations in the puppet army: that of massive theft of US aid committed by officers of the puppet marine under the baton of Nguyen Van Thieu, and that of the opium traffic undertaken by air pilots under the control of Nguyen Cao Ky.

The first remedy seems rather inefficient to enable the puppet army to assume the heavy tasks awaiting them.

SECOND REMEDY, MODERNISATION AND INCREASE OF WEAPONRY: TO COMBAT DIARRHOEA WITH QUININE

THIS remedy seems depend solely on Washington which has allowed a massive dose of it in these days. Hundreds of thousands of M-16 automatic rifles are still not available to any other armies in the US camp, except the American, several squadrons of A-37 jet planes, river flotillas with modern units, a sufficient number of combat equipment battalions have been handed over to the puppet army. Following his inspection tour of South Viet Nam last March, Melvin Laird proposed a 250 million-dollar budget for the speedy modernisation of the puppet troops.

However, the latter's armament is still far inferior to that of the GI's. US News and World Report has drawn a small parallel: a US division possesses 20 cannons, its puppet counterpart, 24. A US battalion is given 99 military vehicles, its puppet opposite number 11; the number of automatic weapons of a US company is 4 times larger than that of a puppet company.

Ky's air force boasts, reported AFP, 30 A-37 planes used as training aircraft, some 50-55 Freedom Fighter combat planes, but out of these some 10 propeller-driven aircraft and a few helicopters.

The puppet navy has received only the first US patrol boats and is practically still embryonic compared with the US fleet in Vietnamese or nearby waters.

Certainly, to "saturate" the puppet army with modern weaponry and equipment is something quite feasible for the US. But is it that a good remedy to secure it the favours of victory?

A minimum of logic is enough to see that up to now the US-puppets have been battered not because of an inferiority in this respect. Quite the opposite! The second remedy is just like quinine against diarrhoea! Even in the best of cases, the remedies are not given in an amount equal to that of the GI's. Now that the latter could not hold their ground under the blows of the patriots in the last 4 years, how then can the poor devils pressganged into the puppet army do any better than their "allies"?

No, the true Achilles' heel of the puppet troops is not the lack of hardware, but of morale. This was acknowledged by Time magazine which commented on March 21 that specialized technicians and fire-power could in no way replace the lack of morale in the puppet army.

THIRD REMEDY, INTENSIVE TRAINING: LOVE'S LABOUR LOST

GRAT efforts have been made to give the puppet troops an intensive training which will

put them, in a minimum delay, in a position to fulfil the task Washington wants to assign to them. A part of the US troops has been detailed for this programme. Qualifications for admission to military schools have been lowered substantially so as to form in a short space of time a rather large corps of officers... the circumstances. Thousands of officers and NCO's have been dispatched to the US, Taiwan and the Philippines to learn how to man modern weapons and tactics, etc.

But the main difficulty is to determine what to teach the puppet troops and what combat methods to be adopted.

In fact, all US tactics, classic or modern, have been tried on the battlefield, and all have proved ineffective in face of the extraordinary "Charlie" + helicopter operations, armoured personnel carriers, overhead encirclement (thanks to paratroops and helicopters), fire-support bases, floating bases, river assaults, etc.

US total impasse on the battlefield, the lack of imagination in this field. To acquaint the puppet troops with an effective tactic ends is a dangerous game which will bring on it even more humiliating setbacks. Still one wonders if "Vietnamisation" is in reality a bluff designed to appease public opinion which is growing impatient of Washington's continued aggression in Viet Nam.

In fact, this withdrawal of GI's eagerly desired by the American people would be obtained, according to Nixon, only under one of the 3 following conditions, each as utopian as the other:

- the puppet troops would be in a position to replace the GI's, something which will never be possible as we have seen above;

- the hostilities would diminish markedly, something which is inconceivable so long as the US imperialism continues its aggression against our Fatherland;

- the Paris Conference would have made substantial progress, while it is dragging its feet because of the absurd claim by the US government for a ransom for its aggression and its denial of our people's fundamental national rights.

In laying down unrealistic conditions, Nixon hopes to create pretexts for continuation of the war and put off blame on the Vietnamese people.

Either it is a utopian policy or a cunning move, the "de-Americanisation" of the US war of aggression can by no means constitute a sheet anchor for this criminal adventure.

A PLAF unit

results: so, in the Mekong Delta where the NLF remains very powerful, the puppet troops like to conclude a *modus vivendi* with the local guerrillas in the province of Long Khanh, East-Northeast of Saigon, between May 8 and May 19, 8 infantry battalions and 2 armoured squadrons of the 19th Infantry Division were destroyed or depleted. Lastly, in the Plei Can - Ben Het - Dakto sector in Northern Kontum, 1,000 men of the 12 puppet battalions involved and of the US 4th Infantry Division were put out of action between June 6 and June 24.

These experiments carried out with the presence and support of the American forces did not, however, fit in with the reality of a real "puppetisation." If really the whole war load that has crushed both the expeditionary corps and the puppet army is shifted on the latter's shoulders, there is no need to be a prophet to predict its implosion. To "de-Americanise" the war is, as far as the puppet army is concerned, like a snatch the crutches from a cripple.

Persistence in this "de-Americanisation" by the Nixon Administration to treat the puppet army as an end in itself, rather than as a means to a dangerous game which will bring on it even more humiliating setbacks. Still one wonders if "Vietnamisation" is in reality a bluff designed to appease public opinion which is growing impatient of Washington's continued aggression in Viet Nam.

In fact, this withdrawal of GI's eagerly desired by the American people would be obtained, according to Nixon, only under one of the 3 following conditions, each as utopian as the other:

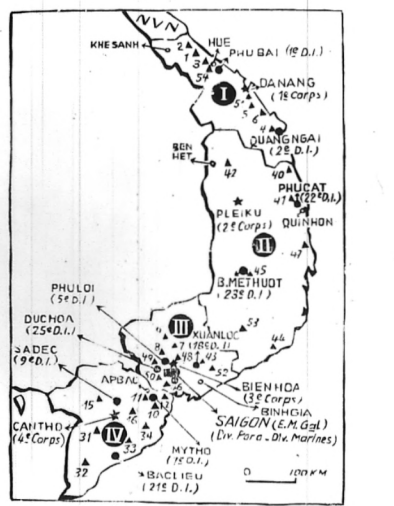
- the puppet troops would be in a position to replace the GI's, something which will never be possible as we have seen above;

- the hostilities would diminish markedly, something which is inconceivable so long as the US imperialism continues its aggression against our Fatherland;

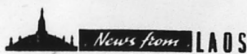
- the Paris Conference would have made substantial progress, while it is dragging its feet because of the absurd claim by the US government for a ransom for its aggression and its denial of our people's fundamental national rights.

In laying down unrealistic conditions, Nixon hopes to create pretexts for continuation of the war and put off blame on the Vietnamese people.

Either it is a utopian policy or a cunning move, the "de-Americanisation" of the US war of aggression can by no means constitute a sheet anchor for this criminal adventure.



Major Puppet Units in South Viet Nam
Roman number: Army corps and tactical area.
Black square: General Staff (Saigon).
Black star: Army corps and tactical area HQ.
Black circle: Division HQ.
Black triangle: Regimental CP (with genealogical number).



News from LAOS

LPF Spokesman Flays Vientiane's Provocation Against Vietnamese Officials

THE spokesman of the Central Committee of the Neo Lao Haksat (Laotian Patriots' Front) has issued a statement strongly condemning the Vientiane administration's arresting, mistreating and expelling of five diplomats and staff members of the DRVN Embassy and XNA correspondents in Vientiane.

"As everybody knows," the statement said, "the Vientiane authorities had in the past carried out provocations against the DRVN Embassy, expelled it and prevented its staff members' normal activities. They also launched campaigns of slanders against the DRVN with

a view to covering up the US imperialists' war intensification in Laos. Their act of provocation this time infringes upon all regulations on normal diplomatic relations among nations and constitutes a brazen challenge to the Vietnamese people. This also aims at undermining the friendly relations and close solidarity between the peoples of Laos and Viet Nam and causes tension between the two countries."

The statement went on: "The LPF and the Laotian people vigorously protest and denounce the Vientiane administration's hostile and illegal acts, demand that they strictly respect the di-

plomatic regulations, ensure the security, movement and normal activities of the DRVN Embassy staff members. First and foremost, they must set free the Vietnamese officials unlawfully arrested and give up their intention to expel them."

"If the Vientiane administration continues, failing the friendly relations and intimate solidarity between the peoples of Laos and Viet Nam, and sabotaging Laos' policy of peace and neutrality, they must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from their acts," the statement concluded.

paper now circulated in army camps across the country. *Open Signs* comes out every two weeks. It is printed by photo-offset, apparently supported by advertisements, and distributed free; 4,000 copies were printed at the first two issues though relatively few were actually distributed. One of the best

have forged an alliance between blacks and middle-class radicals in the army. *Shien* under describes the army as "the tool of the anti-black, anti-worker, imperialist system." The words sound like the Students for a Democratic Society or any campus radical, and some of the GI dissenters are ex-

US News Agency Reveals US Clandestine Activities in Laos

IN a report from Vientiane on August 1, 1969 about the recent "car accident" engineered by the Vientiane administration as a pretext to illegally arrest five DRVN officials, UPI revealed the clandestine activities of US military personnel and CIA agents in Nam Thong and Long Cheng military bases, about two miles north of Vientiane.

"Hundreds of American aid personnel, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents, special forces troops and American Air Force personnel are clandestinely at the two bases, helping support and direct military operations all over northern Laos," UPI disclosed.

Quoting the above report

of UPI, the *Pathet Lao* Press Agency added that US military personnel and "advisers" had been clandestinely active not only in Nam Thong and Long Cheng but also in many other military bases in Laos to assume direct command of the Vientiane rightist army and pursue the US war of aggression in Laos.

At present, KPL went on, the number of US military personnel and "advisers" in Laos has reached 12,000, not including tens of thousands of US air force personnel coming from various US air bases in Thailand and South Viet Nam and the Seventh Fleet, for daily bombardments against the Laotian liberated zone.

Laotian Harass, published some neat satire and was smartly given an undesirable discharge a fortnight before the war is due to leave the army.

The GI civilian anti-war conference had a two-day meeting in Chicago last Christmas to organize peace marches which took place simultaneously in six cities in the last month. Although army rules prevent soldiers marching for peace while in uniform, and thus make them hard to identify, there were some hundreds of them in the New York march alone. In Seattle during February 400 soldiers staged a peace march, 'GIs united against the war in Viet Nam' was the group responsible for the San Francisco peace march last October which led to the famous case which led to the Presidio '27' now on trial at Fort Ord, California.

The '27' were a group of prisoners in the Presidio stockade last October, some of whom had been absent without leave on the march in San Francisco, while others were longer-standing prisoners. The group protested about the appalling conditions of the prison and about the cold-blooded shooting of a fellow prisoner — a desperate 19-year-old neurotic called Richard Bunch — by a prison guard. Stubborn singing of *We Shall Overcome* brought out the stockade commandant, who charged the men with 'mutiny,' which is punishable by death. Eight of the 27 have so far been tried in

from the military police, but well patronized by GIs for 25-cent coffee, folk singers and a speaking outfit.

The anti-war café talk and the underground newspapers pass on reports of anti-war activities in other army camps, glorifying the activists on trial such as the Fort Jackson 'U' and the 'Presidio 27' and giving advice on the legal position of active-duty soldiers involved in anti-war protests. All the papers point out that the army cannot impartially read matter, though commanding officers strongly discourage distribution of the newspapers, and in Fort Dix copies have been seized, while in Georgia one Dennis Davis, editor of *The*

AFTER the battle I got lost. The streets of Saigon were now teeming with GIs and puppet police. It would be risky for me to wander alone in a PLAF uniform and with a Tommy gun on my shoulder! And so I screwed up my courage and knocked at a door by the roadside. Squinting on the floor, cut with a chair leg, he probably did this for a living. "Good morning, Pop," I said, "I am a PLAF man who has got lost after action. Could you put me up for the night?"

The old man stopped in his work, looked up and eyed me up and down, bent over and looked at my rifle. He rose, walked over to the door and quickly closed it. Then he took me into an inner room and again scrutinized me carefully. I put my canvas hat and gun on a corner of the plank bed. He then went slowly entered the room and said pleadingly: "We can't honestly tell whether you're a PLAF man or a Saigon soldier. Once a man came and said he was a PLAF man. In fact, he did wear a PLAF uniform, like you. But after he had stayed for a few days, he discovered that he was really a Saigon man. All right, since you're here, you can stay. But please hide your gun. It will bring us trouble."

There was little I could do to convince them I was a true PLAF man. So I stepped close

received sentences between nine months and 15 years. Fourteen are on trial this week in California.

The Presidio 27 have done something for all American military prisoners. So horrible are the conditions they have described—desperate overcrowding with over 110 prisoners in a space designed for 80, food for 100 feeding 135, four lavatories for the whole prison, racial persecution by guards, systematic dehumanization, which has led to 30 suicide attempts in the last year—that the normally pro-army Senate Armed Services Committee has been forced into holding the first congressional inquiry into military prisons for 15 years. Next week a group of penologists will visit the Presidio, and although there has been plenty of warning to get it cleaned up, the prisoners will still be there to testify. The army has 10,000 men in stockades out of its 1 1/2 million soldiers.

There has been steady rise in the stockade population over the last couple of years, and more recently a marked increase in AWOL. The army has over reacted to the threat of subversion with extra duty, pass restrictions and arrests for activists—attitudes calculated to increase the following of the militants. Attempts to insulate camps from news of planned peace demonstrations have been notably unsuccessful. The San Francisco peace march

to them and said softly: "I did she know? What caused that abrupt change in her attitude? She soon gave me the reason. Pointing at my bare feet, she said in a gently chiding tone: 'You blackhead, I had a scheme of my own. I sent you to a bath house to wash your feet. But you would make you take off your shoes, and then I saw the marks left by the tread of your rubber tyre sandals! I knew right away that you are a true PLAF boy.'"

Years don't come easily to my eyes in a rule. But when I looked at these marks, I could hardly contain my emotion.

It had just not dawned on me when I put on my boots. The old woman signalled me into the inner room. There I stood, holding my gun and listening intently.

Someone, most certainly a policeman, was asking me harsh voice, "Any stranger in your house?" To this the old woman answered calmly: "All there are now in my house are myself, my old man, and the two of you."

"That old policeman pruned a sharp-eyed rascal. 'Why should there be three loads and three pairs of chopsticks for the meal?' he asked pointedly."

My host was quick-witted. "Because," she answered in a most natural voice, "Saigonese are hospitable people. You may not know it because you're too young, but whenever there is some delicacy on the dinner table, we always put an extra

The Old Woman of Saigon

load and pair of chopsticks just in case some guest drops in. Now if you two want to share our meal, just pop into the kitchen and bring out a bowl and pair of chopsticks!"

The answer came in a warm voice: "Thank you, but we're late of other fish to fry."

It was only a few minutes, then it slipped out: "Why did you tell that ruffian to go to a bath house to wash his feet? I asked in a slightly reproachful voice. "He could have bumped into me!"

She smiled. "Well, I couldn't help myself, could I? This would have been suspicious. So I told him to go himself, and that cleared whatever was on his mind. Besides, should he really step into the kitchen, even in the middle of the night, in spite of the fear of military vehicles coming about the house?"

That night I slept in the old man's bed. I deeply felt the old man's love for his wife. I was not yet at the end of my surprise. When he had finished our meal, he said about making love: "The old couple told me about other encounters they had had with the enemy."

That evening, I asked the old woman to tell me some more about how she did away with two cruel thugs in the first days of the Tet general offensive and concerted uprisings. But she would rather talk about her two children. Her son

had joined the PLAF and had been fighting in western Nam Bo. He had written home only three letters in more than a year. To say that he had been awarded liberation medals on several occasions. About a week ago, she learnt of his heroic death in an onslaught on Cam Tho. She didn't do a day of several nights' weeping tears. Her daughter had joined the Saigon people's self-defence corps in the first day of the Tet offensive. She had recently been notified by the commandant of the PLAF that the girl had been honoured with the title: "Valiant Anti-US Fighter" or hero. She put out of action 23 Yanks in two days.

It was simply a mother talking about her children. Yet it seemed to me as though I was listening to the commander of the South Vietnamese fighters' exploits. She was talking in a soft whisper, but I was clearly aware of the still of night, in spite of the fear of military vehicles coming about the house.

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All-Viet Nam... We Will Do...

(Continued from page 3)

(Continued from page 3)

Fired by the continual offensives and repeated successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, and prompted by the urgent request of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the NVNAPF recently convened after consultations the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives to appoint the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and its Advisory Council. Many leaders of the Alliance were unanimously elected by the Congress to the PRG and its Advisory Council. President Ho Chi Minh, the venerated leader of our people, has said: "Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. Rivers may run dry and mountains may wear flat, but that trinity decidedly will never change."

The US aggressors and their hirelings have resorted to countless divisive tricks against our people in the North and the South. But their growing brutality and trickiness only bring closer 31 million Vietnamese in the common struggle for the interests of the nation and the defence of the Fatherland.

The militant solidarity between the North and South Vietnamese people, between the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the South Viet Nam NLF and the Viet Nam Alliance of National and Democratic Peace Forces constitutes an invincible force that no reactionary force can break.

In early Spring this year, the North Vietnamese people welcomed the NLF delegation headed by Dr. Phung Van Cung, which brought to the 17 million North Vietnamese people the South Vietnamese people's affection and victorious mettle of heroic South Viet Nam.

Today, the people of North Viet Nam and of Hanoi jubilantly greet the delegation of the NVNAPF led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao. This visit of the Alliance's leaders further strengthens the solidarity and friendship between our fellow-countrymen in the cities, intellectuals, students and other strata in the two zones, solidarity which will help push ahead the struggle for an independent, free, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam and for the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

blocked the progress of the Paris Conference. (—)

In face of the present serious situation, true to its Political Programme, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces solemnly reiterates its position: the US must end its aggression, withdraw unconditionally all US troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, recognize the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people, namely independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. The US government must talk seriously with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the basis of the truce-point overall resolution of the South Viet Nam NLF and the well-known four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for which the Alliance has many times declared its full support. This points to an honourable way for the US government to get out of the war, not at any cost in men and money, a war that has been meeting with dismal setbacks in South Viet Nam. There is no other choice for the US. If the Nixon administration adamantly continues objecting to this solution, it will surely experience still more bitter failures.

The South Vietnamese people including those in the towns and cities, responding to the appeal of the South Viet Nam NLF and of the PRG, are determined to stand with the Ho Chi Minh on July 30 last, are determined to rush forward to attack and rise up continuously to attack and rise up continuously to attack them till all the US and satellite troops are withdrawn from South Viet Nam, till the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration is completely overthrown. This attitude of the South Vietnamese people including the urban people is unshakable.

The NVNAPF undertakes to go in hand with the South Viet Nam NLF and do its best to mobilize the people of all strata in South Viet Nam's towns and cities to strengthen the two zones, solidarity which will help push ahead the struggle for an independent, free, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam and for the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

GIs' Fight Against Viet Nam War

known GI newspapers is the *Fort Dix Shakedown*, an eight-page tabloid printed in New York. It is widely distributed on railway and bus stations in New York and Philadelphia and is also neatly folded into copies of the *New York Times* on sale at the base. Three big Southern bases also have underground newspapers. Fort Jackson, South Carolina, has *Short Times*; Fort Hood Texas, has *Fatigue Press* and Fort Gordon, Georgia, has *The Last Harass*. All the papers are written entirely by enlisted men and *Open Signs* editors are typical of the other papers — one New England WASP and a Harlem high-school drop-out.

Shared anti-war feelings

WEEKLY SURVEY

VERY active in all theatres of operations, the PLAF made very heavy attacks on the Saigon front, hammering unrelentingly at the positions of US divisions "First Cav," "Tropic Lightning" and "Big Red One." Armoured Regiment 11 and puppet Infantry Division 5 in the provinces of Tay Ninh, northwest, and Binh Long, North of Saigon (Hoi Quan Region).

Saigon under "defence belt" was strongly shaken. In six days from the night of August 11 to 17, about 80 attacks were launched by the PLAF in these two provinces, exacting heavy losses from the enemy who had 6,000 men (3,500 GIs) put out of action, puppet 1st Armoured Regiment 15 badly mauled, 5 battalions, 20 armoured squadrons and 16 companies wiped out, 500 military vehicles (450 tanks and armoured carriers), 70 ordnance pieces destroyed or damaged, 90 aircraft downed or wrecked, 20 war vessels sunk or burnt.

Southeast of Saigon, the enemy was taken to task in My Tho and Long An sectors (90 targets and even in My Tho town and base of US Division 9 on Dong Tam). From August 12 to 16, 1,550 enemy troops and 10 vehicles were put out of action.

THE first six months of this year saw, among other things, a stepped-up political drive in South Viet Nam, whose successes helped enhance the offensive posture of the people and their armed forces.

More than 20,000 highlanders in Central Viet Nam rose up in the period under review, razing 93 "strategic hamlets" in Kong Hing, southeast of Tan Can township in Kontum province, which involved some 10,000 people.

In the month ending March 22, the people in the central provinces of Central Viet Nam demolished 150 "strategic hamlets" and "refugees" centres, asserting their power in areas with an over 200,000 total population.

In the provinces west and southwest of the Mekong river revolts broke out in 222 "strategic hamlets" with the participation of more than 260,000 people.

Shattering blows were dealt at the enemy right in the areas supposed to be very "secure." People in the provincial capitals of My Tho, An Giang and Quang Nam provinces and on their outposts, in co-ordination with armed home-guards and guerrillas, took control of a great number of "strategic hamlets," and disbanded many "popular defence" units. Even in Saigon, many wicked enemy agents were made away with.

These political actions assumed varied forms, from street demonstrations to confrontations to foil enemy raids.

In the northernmost part of South Viet Nam, south of the DMZ on the 17th parallel, 15 Marines and puppet troops engaged near Con Tien and Dong Ha suffered heavy losses bringing the enemy toll in the first half of August to nearly 1,000 casualties (900 GIs), 42 vehicles destroyed, 12 aircraft downed and 5 vessels sunk or burnt.

In Hue sector, in addition to the onset against the airfield in the Citadel and enemy positions as mentioned in our last issue, the patriotic forces knocked out a US company, burnt and destroyed 20 depots of war material and a dozen blockhouses and barracks in a daring coup de main on the night of August 11. In the Da Nang sector, the PLAF maintained their pressure in the areas south, southeast and southwest of the city: 67 targets were hit on the night of August 11 and about one thousand enemy casualties (700 GIs) were listed on August 12 and 13. Between the night of August 11 and 14, US Da Nang base was struck three times in 6 days ending August 17, 600 adverse troops and 12 vehicles were wiped

out and 3 aircraft downed in Quang Ngai province.

Summing up, enemy losses in the First Tactical Area were very heavy, particularly in so far as Armoured Infantry Division 5, Airborne Division 1st and Americal Division were concerned.

These onslaughts, chiefly those launched in the Binh Long and Tay Ninh sectors, despite the enemy concentration of 20 battalions and 500 armoured vehicles, testify to the high fighting spirit and huge potentials of the PLAF which are developing unceasingly in all fields, particularly in the tactical methods against enemy motorized and armoured forces, and entrenched camps. On the other hand the setbacks suffered by the US expose the utter impotence of Abrams' defensive strategy and tactics and augur ill of his desperate attempt to "Vietnamize" the war and to curtail American losses.

IN SAIGON, nearly 200 public transport workers reaffirmed at a meeting held on August 17 at the seat of the General Federation of La-

bour, their resolute opposition to the decision of the puppet administration to close the bus state-run enterprise, thus rendering idle hundreds of workers. Notice was served by the protestors on the puppet administration, threatening it with a general strike in case their demand would not be met.

This action of the Saigon bus drivers has stirred world opinion and, on behalf of civil servants in 65 countries, the public servants' international TU sent a letter to the Saigon administration to back the South Vietnamese workers.

Besides, on the occasion of the 6th anniversary of the bloody repression of the Buddhists in South Viet Nam towns and cities by the Ngo Dinh Diem administration (August 20), the Bureau of the Buddhist Institute in Saigon made public a statement by the Bonze Superior, director of the Institute, demanding cancellation of the illegal condemnation of Bonze Superior Thich Thin Minh, chief of the Buddhist Youth, and abrogation of law 23-1967 authorizing the reactionary bonze Thich Tam Chan to split the Buddhist movement. The statement called on Buddhists to fight for peace in South Viet Nam.

Foreign press correspondents in Saigon reported that the Thien-Ky-Huong clique had closed down on August 16 the weekly Dien Dan (Tri-bune) right at its first issue, under the pretext that it carried cartoons ridiculing the puppet regime.

POWERFUL STEP-UP OF POLITICAL AGITATION
IN FIRST HALF OF 1969

Popular action was no less strong in contested and liberated areas, and thwarted to a great extent the notorious "accelerated pacification" campaign of the US puppets.

In southern Long An, the people and their armed forces in May and the first half of June mounted 200 attacks on enemy troops engaged in "pacification" operations. In two surprise assaults on a position in Long An town, they wiped out 125 enemy soldiers. There was also the storming of 31 "strategic hamlets" during which the attackers put out of action 170 enemy soldiers.

In the delta provinces of My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, An Giang and Kien Phong, the people in the three summer months heavily trounced 26 "pacification" groups and knocked out many troops in their support.

Within four days in mid-May, 13 such groups were made short work of in the central part of Central Viet Nam.

The so-called "Popular Defence Forces" — a prop of the faltering "accelerated pacification" program — were also battered, with tens of

thousands of their men disabled in these six months. Many areas have completely got rid of these bandits. In the southern provinces, it has become a practice among "Popular Defence" men to hand in their weapons and turn a new leaf.

The grassroots puppet administration, as a result, is fast collapsing. Most of the "elections" to village puppet administration in the past three months have been boycotted by the people, while, in growing numbers, village despots are reporting themselves to the revolutionary authorities.

Meanwhile, People's Revolutionary Committees of all levels had been established in most of the provinces by the end of June, following the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam early that month.

Struggle was particularly fierce against enemy atrocities and for democratic liberties. There were marches on towns in which the marchers confronted the enemy with their victims, alive or dead, to his utter confusion. The demonstrators against wanton bombardments in

Long An, Bien Hoa, My Tho, Can Tho, Gia Dinh and Quang Ngai provinces draw in even religious priests.

Strikes in the towns were expanded to a variety of claims, 8,000 workers in the capital of Quang Ngai province struck for price cuts and US withdrawal. Peasants tilling terraced fields in Tay Ninh and Long Khanh provinces came out strong against the influx of Thailand flour. In Lam Dong, 7,000 tea producers pressed for drastic measures to dispose of their piling stock. Seditious in An Giang urged prompt restoration of their dying industry.

In Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, My Tho and other major urban centres there were walk-outs for the raising of Lambretta cyclecars — the only means of living of thousands of families — and the dissolution of collective management of businesses, which threatens thousands of drivers with unemployment.